

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release to PM's October 26, 1972

## UNIQUE SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IS DEDICATED BY INTERIOR SECRETARY MORTON

The new 22,000-acre South San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge was formally dedicated today in ceremonies keynoted by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton.

Unlike nearly all other national wildlife refuges, the newly designated area lies in the middle of one of America's fastest growing urban complexes--the sprawling San Francisco-San Jose-East Bay metropolitan region.

It also is the first national wildlife refuge for which land acquisition money is allotted from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, managed by the Interior Department to set aside new areas for park and recreation use.

Vitally important for migratory waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway, its marshes, mudflats, salt ponds and open water accommodate a great variety of life, including several endangered species.

Legislation authorizing the refuge was signed into law by President Nixon last June.

Secretary Morton, in remarks prepared for the ceremonies, observed, "The primary mission of the refuge is to provide a habitat for wildlife. It also will provide an opportunity for millions of Americans to develop an understanding of man's interdependence with his environment."

To permit people to observe without damaging the area, he said, planning includes off-site parking, boat tours, and possibly such unusual transportation as mini-trains.

Secretary Morton praised the efforts of "Save the Bay" forces in the community for providing practical controls over landfill, dredging and other development activities that had threatened what remains of the Bay's natural habitat.

He also noted that Congress, at the President's urging, passed legislation this month to create a new Golden Gate National Urban Recreation Area in the upper Bay and northward along the coast, within reach of millions of area residents and visitors.

# # #